



General Assembly

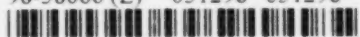
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Agenda item 114
Programme planning

**Letter dated 3 December 1998 from the President of the
General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the
Fifth Committee**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 1 December 1998 concerning agenda item 114, which was addressed to me by the Chairman of the Second Committee.

(Signed) Didier Opertti



Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 1 December 1998 from the Chairman of the Second Committee addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28 October 1998 (A/C.2/53/5) transmitting to me a letter dated 26 October 1998 from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, concerning agenda item 114, entitled "Programme planning", seeking the views of the Second Committee on the relevant proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001.

The Second Committee held a general discussion on this item at its 36th, 39th and 40th meetings on 10, 16 and 24 November 1998, respectively. The relevant sections of the summary records of those meetings are annexed to the present letter for the information of the Fifth Committee during its consideration of the question.

I would be grateful if this information could be transmitted through you to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee.

(Signed) Bagher Asadi
Chairman of the Second Committee

Appendix

[Original: English/French]

Excerpts from the summary records of the 36th, 39th and 40th meetings of the Second Committee

Agenda item 114: Programme planning (A/53/16; A/53/6, programmes 18, 20 and 28; A/C.2/53/5)

16. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention, in particular, to a letter dated 26 October 1998 from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to the Chairman of the Second Committee, which had been circulated as an annex to document A/C.2/53/5.

17. **Mr. Hapsoro** (Indonesia), noting that the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) was awaiting the Second Committee's views on its proposed revisions to the medium-term plan, requested additional time for the Group of 77 and China to discuss the matter.

18. **Ms. Woergetter** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, the European Union was prepared to endorse the recommendation on programme planning, as contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/53/16).

19. **Mr. Gaydos** (United States of America) expressed strong support for the practice of seeking input from the relevant substantive bodies on proposals concerning programme planning prior to their adoption by the Fifth Committee. His delegation welcomed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination looked forward to their expeditious adoption.

20. **Ms. Fahmy** (Egypt) agreed that more time was needed in order to study the recommendations in the light of the letter from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.2/53/5). He pointed out that the Committee should not discuss the priorities contained in the medium-term plan. Indeed, there was no mention of the reordering of those priorities in the letter from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee.

21. **Mr. Pedroso** (Cuba) supported the remarks made by the representatives of Indonesia and Egypt. It was vital for the Second Committee to submit its views on the CPC proposals, preferably in the form of a decision.

22. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would resume its consideration of the matter the following week.

Agenda item 114: Programme planning (A/53/6, A/53/16, A/C.2/53/5)

44. **The Chairman**, at the request of the representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that consideration of the item would be postponed until the following meeting.

45. **Mr. Ito** (Japan) said that he nevertheless wished to speak on the item. His delegation endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/53/16) on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/53/6).

Agenda item 114: Programme planning (*continued*) (A/53/6 (programmes 18, 20 and 28), A/53/16 and A/C.2/53/5)

40. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to document A/C.2/53/5, which was a letter addressed to him by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee requesting the views of the Second Committee on the proposed revisions to programmes 18, 20 and 28 of the

medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. Delegations wishing to take the floor could do so.

41. **Mr. Hidayat** (Indonesia) said that, after carefully considering the revisions which had been proposed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the above-mentioned programmes, the Group of 77 and China had concluded that the revisions were wholly consistent with their own views and they were therefore able to support the recommendations.

42. **The Chairman** said that he would transmit the views of the representative of Indonesia in a letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, to which he would also attach the summary record of the current meeting as well as those of the thirty-sixth and thirty-ninth meetings of the Committee, in which the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union), the United States of America and Japan had made comments. Lastly, he wished to draw the Committee's attention to document A/C.2/53/8, which referred to the issuance of a letter from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee concerning budgetary matters.
